

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC 3350
USUN NEW YORK 322

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRIDGETOWN 1890

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW), BB
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION DURING BARBADOS STOP

1. THERE FOLLOW VARIOUS TOPICS WHICH IN OUR JUDGMENT ARE
LIKELY TO ARISE DURING THE COURSE OF YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH
BARBADIAN OFFICIALS. RECOMMENDED TALKING POINTS ARE
INCLUDED FOR POSSIBLE USE BY THE PARTY.

A. U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

THE GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS (GOB) IS NOW CONVINCED THE
U.S. WILL BE PROVIDING INCREASED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE
CARIBBEAN. THERE IS RESENTMENT THAT THUS FAR SUCH ASSISTANCE
ALMOST ENTIRELY IS CHANNELED THROUGH THE CARIBBEAN
DEVELOPMENT BANK AND IS RESTRICTED TO HELPING THE LESS
DEVELOPED ISLAND ENTITIES IN THIS AREA. BARBADOS WHOSE
PER CAPITA INCOME IS ABOUT \$1,450 IS RELATIVELY
WELL OFF COMPARED TO SUCH ISLANDS AS DOMINICA, ST. VINCENT
AND GRENADA WHERE THERE IS WIDESPREAD PVERTY AND UN-
EMPLOYMENT. THE GOB IS CONFUSED AND ANXIOUS AS TO OUR
INTENTIONS ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND SEEKS MEANS TO
ASSURE THAT BARBADOS RECEIVE SIGNIFICANT US FUNDS FOR
INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS, HOUSING, MILITARY TRAINING
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AND SUPPLY, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PROGRAM AID. THE
GOB ALSO IS RESENTFUL OF RECENT US ASSISTANCE FOR SUCH
US CRITICS AS JAMAICA AND GUYANA. THERE IS A FEELING
HERE THAT THE US IGNORES BARBADOS' NEEDS PRECISELY
BECAUSE IT IS STABLE, MODERATE, DEMOCRATIC, ECONOMICALLY
PRUDENT AND SUPPORTIVE OF THE US.

POSSIBLE RESPONSE:

THE US IS INTENSELY STUDYING THE MOST FEASIBLE AND EFFECTIVE MEANS OF ASSISTING THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN. WE EMPHASIZE THAT ANY US AID IS LIKELY TO BE MORE REGIONAL THAN BILATERAL BUT THAT USAID IS NOW SEEKING APPROVAL FOR PROGRAMS IN WHICH BARBADOS CAN PARTICIPATE. WE EXPECT THAT AN ECONOMIC SURVEY TEAM WILL BE DISPATCHED TO THE AREA SOON TO EVALUATE PROBLEMS AND NEEDS AND RECOMMEND POSSIBLE US RESPONSES.

B. NAVAL FACILITY

THE GOB MAY REITERATE THAT IN EXCHANGE FOR A RENEWAL OF THE CURRENT AGREEMENT PERMITTING OUR USE OF A SMALL NAVAL FACILITY AT THE NORTH END OF THE ISLAND US RENTAL PAYMENTS AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE MUST BE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED AND COMPENSATION PAID FOR PAST USE. THERE APPEARS TO BE SUCH A WIDE DIVERGENCE IN WHAT THE GOB SEEKS AND WHAT WE ARE PREPARED TO PAY THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENT IS IN DOUBT.

U.S. RESPONSE

THE VALUE OF THE NAVAL FACILITY TO THE US IS
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LIMITED. IF THE SUBJECT IS RAISED, IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL FOR YOU TO EMPHASIZE THIS POINT.

C. UNITED NATIONS

THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT ACTIVELY TRIES TO INCREASE ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE UN. THE UN IS AN IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR THE GOB. THE GOB HAS SUPPORTED THE US MORE OFTEN THAN NOT IN RECENT YEARS AND SHOULD BE THANKED. FORDE IS EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE COMING UNGA SOMETIME DURING THE SESSION.

WE CONSULT CLOSELY WITH GOB LEADERS ON GENERAL QUESTIONS ON ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AND SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATING TO UNGA.

D. HUMAN RIGHTS

BARBADOS HAS AN ENVIABLE RECORD IN THIS REGARD AND HAS NOT HESITATED TO EXPRESS ITS CONCERN, MOST RECENTLY IN A SPEECH BY EXTAFF MINISTER FORDE TO THE OASGA IN

GRENADA IN JUNE.

E. CUBA

THE GOB EXPRESSES RESERVATIONS ABOUT CUBA AND ITS
ROLE IN THE CARIBBEAN. ADAMS IN JULY SPECIFICALLY TOLD
THE YOUTH WING OF HIS PARTY THAT MUCH OF SOCIALISM IS
EXCESSIVE AND UNNECESSARY TO THE MAIN JOB OF PROVIDING
FOR PEOPLE. THE GOB IS IN THE CONSERVATIVE MOLD OF
THE BRITISH LABOUR PARTY, NOT RADICALS.

U.S. RESPONSE:

YOU COULD RELATE OUR RECENT STEPS TO IMPROVE
RELATIONS IN A "MESURED AND RECIPROCAL MANNER" AND
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ASK WHAT GOB THINKS ABOUT CUBA'S ROLE IN THE REGION.

F. REGIONALISM

THE GOB IS INTERESTED IN ITSELF FIRST BUT
SUPPORTIVE OF REGIONAL COOPERATION IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS,
A SORT OF "BENIGN NEGLECT" POLICY OF ITS OWN TOWARDS
ITS LESS FORTUNATE NEIGHBORS. GOB LEADERS WOULD
NATURALLY BE INTERESTED IN ANY INFORMATION WE MAY WISH
TO GIVE ON EARLIER STOPS IN THE 10-NATION TOUR AND
TO RECEIVE ANY MESSAGES OTHER GOVERNMENTS MAY HAVE HAD.

U.S. RESPONSE:

WE SHOULD QUESTION THE GOB ON THEIR THOUGHTS AS
TO FUTURE OF REGIONALISM BOTH IN SHORT AND LONG TERMS.
IS GREATER INSTITUTIONALIZATION DESIRABLE, NECESSARY,
POSSIBLE OR SHOULD FUNCTIONAL COOPERATION IN LESS
FORMAL MANNER BE EXPANDED. WE WOULD SUPPORT WHATEVER THE
REGION DECIDES FOR ITSELF.

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

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INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC 3351

USUN NEW YORK 323

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BRIDGETOWN 1890

G. BELIZE-GUATEMALA

GOB HAS EMERGED AS A LEADER IN SUPPORT OF BELIZE. PM ADAMS WAS THE CARIBBEAN SPOKESMAN FOR BELIZE INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS 'APPROVED BY BELIZE) AT THE JUNE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING. THE GOB SEIZED A MILLION ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION FROM AN ARGENTINE AIRPLANE THAT STOPPED IN BARBADOS IN JUNE ENROUTE TO GUATEMALA. DESPITE GOG REPRESENTATIONS, THE GOB STILL HOLDS THE AMMUNITION.

U.S. RESPONSE:

WE STRESS OUR EVEN-HAND APPROACH TO THE DISPUTE, OUR SUPPORT FOR A SETTLEMENT WORKED OUT DIRECTLY BY PARTIES CONCERNED, OUR HOPES FOR A NON-VIOLENT SOLUTION, OUR SUPPORT FOR BELIZE INDEPENDENCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND THE USEFULNESS OF OUR BEING ABL TO TALK WITH BOTH SIDES.

H. SOUTHERN AFRICA

THE GOB WOULD NO DOUBT BE INTERESTED IN ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S PERSONAL EXPERIENCES IN DEALING WITH LEADERS, ISSUES AND PROBLEMS OF THE AREA. GOB IS NOT SERIOUSLY INVOLVED IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS. CONFIDENTIAL

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I. LAW OF THE SEA

AS AN ISLAND, GOB HAS OBVIOUS INTEREST IN THIS TOPIC. IT HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN LOS TALKS AND HAS RECENTLY EXTENDED ITS TERRITORIAL LIMIT TO 12 MILES AND ECONOMIC ZONE TO 200. THEY ARE PROBABLY DISAPPOINTED AT THE RECENT FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT IN LOS TALKS. GOB HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN US HELP TO GOAST GUARD AND IN SURVEYING NEW TERRITORIAL WATERS.

U.S. RESPONSE:

WE ARE ALSO DISAPPOINTED AT THE FAILURE OF LOS AGREEMENT TO MATERIALIZE. US READY TO CONTINUE TALKS AT ANY TIME. WE FAVOR EQUITABLE ACCESS TO AND DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES FROM THE SEA BED AND MARITIME COOPERATION TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE. I WILL LOOK INTO THE DETAILS OF YOUR REQUEST FOR APPLICATION.

J. CIVIL AVIATION

THE GOB PRESSES TO SECURE US ROUTES (WASHINGTON AND BOSTON) FOR THE BARBADOS "FLAG CARRIER." THUS FAR THE CAB HAS TURNED DOWN THE REQUEST ON THE GROUNDS THAT CARIBBEAN AIRWAYS (CA) ISN'T REALLY A BARBADIAN AIRLINE BUT RATHER A FRONT FOR BRITISH-OWNED LAKER AIRWAYS. THE GOB AND LAKER HAVE RECENTLY SUBMITTED A "PERFECTION" OF THEIR APPLICATION AND IT IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE CAB.

U.S. RESPONSE:

IF YOU ARE ASKED ABOUT THE CARIBBEAN AIRWAYS MATTER, WE SUGGEST
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YOU RESPOND BY SAYING THE CAB IS AUTONOMOUS AND BASES ITS DECISIONS ON HIGHLY TECHNICAL AND LEGAL TROUNDS. WE SHALL SEE TO IT THAT BARBADOS' APPLICATION GETS FULL CONSIDERATION.

K. NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION U.S. SHOULD RAISE)

THE GOB HAS EXPRESSED NO OPPOSITION TO ADHERENCE IN THE PAST BUT ALSO HAS MADE NO POSITIVE INDICATIONS OF ANY INTENT TO ADHERE. AS A SIGNATORY OF THE TREATY ESTABLISHING A LATIN AMERICAN NUCLEAR FREE ZONE BARBADOS HAS ALREADY FORESWORN NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND ACCEPTED IAEA NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS. THEREFORE THE GOB WOULD TAKE ON NO NEW OBLIGATION BY ADHERING TO THE NPT.

WE CONSIDER NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION A SERIOUS THREAT. JAMAICA, GRENADA, THE BAHAMAS, HAITI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, VENEZUELA AND PANAMA (IN JANUARY 1977) ARE AMONG THE MORE THAN 100 PARTIES TO THE NPT SINCE 1970. OVER 70 NON-ALIGNED NATIONS ARE AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE SIGNED. SIGNATURE OF THE TREATY BY BARBADOS WOULD PROVIDE AN IMPETUS TO OTHERS.
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